

Impact of Welfare Reform

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Customer Care and Involvement

Headlines for 2013

- Under occupancy
- Benefit cap
- Universal Credit
- Changes are introduced by Central not local Government
- Welfare Reform has no impact on older peoples' households

April 2013

- Under occupancy - joint working group
- Rent based on the needs of the family not the size of the property
- No of working age under occupiers -2130
- 14% reduction in rent 1 bed spare – 1696
- 25% reduction in rent 2 bed spare- 434

September 2013

- **Household benefit cap** –no family can receive more in benefits than working households - £500 couple, £350 single person - 87 claims affected (indications it may now be 118)
- 3 families affected have 2 children
- 4 families affected have 3 children
- 21 families affected have 4 children
- 24 families affected have 5 children
- 12 families affected have 6 or more children
- 30 people affected are lone parents
- 51 claims will lose up to £50 per week
- 18 claims will lose between £51 and £100 per week
- 9 claims will lose between £101 and £150 per week
- 9 claims will lose over £150 per week
- 69 people live in social rented sector

Universal Credit October 2013

- Designed to make work pay as people progress into work and cover a range of needs for people out of work.
- It will replace: WTC, CTC, HB, IS, JSA(ib) and ESA(ib).
- New claims from October 2013 with full transfer expected by 2017.
- Delivered by the DWP - Applied for online or over the phone.
- Direct Payment of Rent to tenants.
- Local involvement still being defined but likely to be support for the vulnerable and those in supported accommodation.

Demonstration Project

- Partners - Shropshire Council, Housing & Benefits, Bromford, Sanctuary & Wrekin Housing, CAB, Just Credit Union
- 2,000 working age tenants
- Phased approach 620 in phase 1
- Phase 2 – 226
- Phase 3 - 213

Summary

- Lots of changes in the current year:
 - April 2013 – Under occupancy
 - September 2013 – Benefit Cap
 - October 2013 – Universal Credit

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